GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:694
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
FLYING TRAINING CENTRE IN WEST BENGAL
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1998 the Union Government had leased out a land at Panagarh to Government of West Bengal for opening a Flying Training Centre in joint venture with a private organisation;

(b) whether a Foundation Stone was also laid for the purpose;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government are now backing out the sanctioned project on the plea of joint venture with a private organisation; and

(d) if so, the justification thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) A proposal was received from State Government of West Bengal for transfer of 60 acres of Defence land, along with buildings at Panagarh air field of the IAF, in West Bengal on lease basis for setting up of an Aviation Institute in the joint sector. Initially, the State Government was informed that the Ministry of Defence has no objection in principle to the setting up this Institute at Panagarh and a Task Force was set up to work out the details. The proposal was examined, in detail, and it was decided that it is not possible to transfer the said land on lease to the State Government of West Bengal due to the fact that the said land has not been declared surplus by the Air Force. Also, it has been observed that there are security constraints and other legal complications in transferring this land on lease.

(b) The foundation stone was laid by the State Government on 22nd November, 1998.

(c) & (d): The matter is being reviewed denovo on the basis of further inputs, furnished by the State Government.